

Keep raking the leaves

As we approach winter there isn't really a great deal to do in the garden, especially if you have followed my tips in previous issues. After the first frosts, dahlias can be lifted, cleaned and dipped in a fungicide, then turned upside down to drain. Or, if you are like me, you can throw them away, buy fresh plants from our local plant sale in the spring and let some one else have all the trouble. I do happen to know that one of our residents (the one who wins all the prizes) will be selling his plants at the next sale, so I shall purchase mine from there and give him a run for his money in the September flower show!

Keep raking the leaves from the lawn. This helps the grass to breathe, prevents brown patches, and I am told the exercise is good for us. It's amazing how good a garden can look just by keeping the lawn clean; rather like having a quick Hoover around the house, the whole place looks better immediately.

If we are in for heavy frosts, don't forget to protect your tender plants. Straw is good to use but not always available. The branches of evergreens such as *Cupressus leylandii* give good protection if laid on top of the plants and I am sure people will be only too pleased to part with a few branches of these. I

visited a plants-woman's garden last year and she protects her tender wall plants by draping her son's baby blankets over them (her son is in his forties!). The garden is stunning in summer but a little strange in the winter.

If we do have a fall of snow, gently knock it off the trees and conifers with a broom, otherwise the weight can cause tremendous damage. Keep checking the roots for any sign of wind rock and firm in where necessary. Bare-rooted trees can be planted at this time but give them a good soak for several hours beforehand. Greenhouses can be tidied and this can be quite pleasant in the watery sunshine.

Don't forget to water your tubs - not too much, but don't let them dry out. Wistaria can be pruned in January. Take the young shoots (not the main leader) back to three inches of the previous year's growth. Keep tidying the herbaceous beds and pull out any weeds before they take hold; giving the beds a good mulch keeps this task to a minimum.

Have a good look to see if you have colourful plants, as there are many one can choose even in this inclement time of year. Winter-flowering jasmine is very generous, flowering from November to March and the hellebores (Christmas rose) will

be starting to bud up soon.

It's also time to start selecting seeds and planning your garden for the summer. Do you remember the salvia I recommended last year - *Salvia farinacea victoria*. When I went to see the flowers for the Princess of Wales, I noticed the royal parks had used this salvia in a bedding scheme in front of Buckingham Palace. It really is a sturdy plant and the most amazing shade of deep blue. Mine were in flower from July till October and then very grudgingly I had to lift them to make way for my wallflowers, but I shall certainly use them next year.

Now is a good time to gaze out of the window and reflect on the garden and what changes you might wish to make next year. Browse through books and see if something catches your eye. There are many gardening programmes on television and wonderful books to accompany them. The books also make handsome Christmas gifts and I think top of my list has to be Geoff Hamilton's *Paradise Gardens*. Perhaps, if my son reads this article, I will be lucky, but I won't be holding my breath!

Happy Christmas and good gardening!

DIANE BERGER

Sacred and profane?

It was an evening of musical contrasts on the Square when two concerts were given in aid of the North London Hospice.

In the Institute Hall the Martinu Ensemble, led by Suburb reared cellist Thomas Gardner, enthralled the audience with a programme of 18th and 20th century music while, across the Square in the Free Church the Rev Tony Spring was welcoming another audience for an evening of light and popular music from the Hillingdon Community Concert Band.

There was plenty of applause for both but shortly before the light and popular audience were enthusiastically clapping along to Tea for Two and the Redetsky March, Thomas Gardner and Alison Farrant, in the Institute, were performing Steve Reichs Clapping music which is "concerned with an extension or an elaboration of cannon with identical lines starting together but gradually becoming separated" a contrast that was only apparent because your correspondent was trying to cover both in the absence of our music critic.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



A chance for aspiring young musicians to take advantage of another example of Suburb talent. David Honeyball, shown here during a recording session in St Jude's where he was conducting the London Brass Virtuosi, has vacancies for young brass pupils from beginners to university level, he even has instruments for beginners to start on.

David has taught brass at Childs Way, where his wife Barbara was head of music and he is Director of orchestral studies at Henrietta Barnett School.

His education career has included masterclasses on BBC television and radio as well as at music schools and festivals all over Europe as has his career as a conductor which has also seen him performing in both Proms - that's at the Royal Albert Hall and at St Jude's.

Two Gentlemen of Verona discovered in Little Wood!

The Garden Suburb Theatre's fine production of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona", in the beautifully refurbished arena in Little Wood, was a real success. Many think this play rather dull. Certainly it has a somewhat far-fetched plot but it also contains themes that were later used and developed by Shakespeare. We meet with the hermit or priest so useful in "Twelfth Night"; with outlaws in the forest; with the Duke and with the device of a young woman disguised as a man. For the first time there are comic soliloquies written with great skill and fun. There is also a masterly scene in Act three, between the Duke and Proteus and then with the Duke and Valentine, discovering and ruining the plot of an elopement.

The play is about treachery and constancy. Valentine travels to Milan where he falls in love with the Duke's daughter, Silvia. Her father wishes her to marry Thurio. Valentine's friend Proteus, the lover of Julia, eventually follows him and also falls for the charms of Silvia. He betrays both his friend and his love. All ends in a great scene of forgiveness though one does wonder at the future of Proteus and Julia. The producer, Diana Bromley, assisted by Colin Gregory, assembled a strong

cast. Mark Overall as Valentine was excellent. He had a real feel for Shakespeare's line and insight into the character. Declan Leary as Proteus had a more difficult time. The role is much more complex and it is not easy to warm to such a treacherous friend. The actor managed skilfully to keep our sympathy. Colin Gregory looked and sounded regal as the Duke and relished his great scene. Proteus' servant Launce was amusingly portrayed by Jon Musker, handling his soliloquies with relish. He was not upstaged by his rather fine dog.

Julia, the beloved of Proteus, was played by Joanna Farrer, who brought out the nobleness of this badly-used heroine. Mary Musker made a delightful, lively Silvia. She is helped to escape her father by Sir Eglamour, a recluse knight "vowed to chastity for the love of his lady who has died".

Sadly the producer seemed not to rate this very romantic character very highly and so allowed him to be portrayed by David Brown as a simpleton.

The costumes as usual were lovely and all the actors looked at ease in them. Thanks to Frances Musker, Sheena Ross and Jeanne Solomons.

LEÓNIE STEPHEN

We need your help

Are you interested in keeping the Suburb beautiful? We are looking for additional members on **Consam**, the Conservation and Amenities Committee of the Residents Association, which works to help ensure the protection and enhancement of the appearance, character and tradition of Hampstead Garden Suburb and its amenities.

Consam's work for the conservation and improvement of our unique environment includes the scrutiny and discussion of planning proposals

with the Trust and Barnet and, where appropriate, we are involved in either their support or opposition on behalf of the Suburb or individual residents.

Consam welcomes as members both residents with a general interest in its work as well as those with expertise in its areas of concern. Our meetings are held once a month in the evening.

If you would like to join Consam please phone Carol Boulter on 0181 455 7802 or David Lewis on 0171 433 1121.

The Garden Suburb Theatre

Dario Fo based his anarchic and energetic play around a true story which began in Milan on 12 December 1969 when a bomb killed 17 and wounded 100. A well-known pacifist was arrested but after four days of interrogation he 'fell' out of a fourth floor window. The police claimed the death was 'accidental'.

The play itself takes place after the death of an anarchist and involves a number of flamboyant characters, including

the Manlac who disguises himself as, amongst others, a judge who has come to investigate the case. He has the policemen, who may or may not have been involved in the death, jumping through hoops before we discover his true identity.

Accidental Death of an Anarchist is one of Fo's most popular plays and has acquired a new interest since its author's recent award of the Nobel prize for Literature.

DEBBIE LANE

Calling all 15- to 20-year-olds!

Would you like an attractive place in which to meet friends, on the Suburb?

Would you like a variety of interesting things to do?

Somewhere that provides snacks, soft drinks, TV, games machines, armchairs indoors and a garden outside (and much else)?

And all for a subscription of £3.50 (or £9.50 if over 18) a year.

Just such a scheme is now under consideration; premises have been found; and the big question is whether enough young people resident on the Suburb would like it to go ahead?

If so, the Events Committee of the Suburb's Residents Association will start planning it (to be opened in 1998).

So fill in the form below NOW, NOW, NOW if you are interested and want to be kept informed of developments later. Then please post it to the address given.

(Nothing will be done unless we get back plenty of forms soon.)

And here's a challenge! The organizer will want a small working-group of young people to assist in running things and make decisions about what should be provided. Can you take responsibility? Do you enjoy leadership? Let us know (on the form) if you'd like to play a part in this way.

Send to: Elizabeth Gundrey, Chairman, Events Committee, 30 Southway, NW11 6RU

I would like to know more about the proposed UNDER-TWENTIES CLUB which may be started.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Tel.....

School or college.....Age.....

1. I would / would not attend if it meets on Sunday afternoons

(OR I would prefer to meet on.....)

2. The sorts of activities I would most enjoy include (circle up to 8):

Badminton · Barbues · Books and cassette swaps · Chess

Computers, Email etc · Dancing · Drama · Karate · Music · Outings

Photography · Scrabble, card games etc · Snooker · Table Football

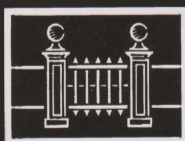
Table Tennis · Talks · TV games · Videos · Walks · Youth radio station

Others such as.....(add your own)

3. I would / would not like to be on a committee organising things like this.

If this goes ahead, we may be looking for donations of such items as snooker or table-tennis table, videos and TV / Computer games, etc.

Any offers welcome! Please give details here:



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